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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,006	03/22/2004	Ashley J. Birkett	91644	1250
24628	7590	11/20/2007		
WELSH & KATZ, LTD 120 S RIVERSIDE PLAZA 22ND FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER PENG, BO	
			ART UNIT 1648	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/20/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/806,006

**Applicant(s)**

BIRKETT, ASHLEY J.

**Examiner**

Bo Peng

**Art Unit**

1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 79-97 and 110-115 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 79-97 and 110-115 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/22/07.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed August 22, 2007, 2007. Claims 1-78 and 98-109 were cancelled. Claims 79 and 80 are amended. Claims 79-97 and 110-115 are pending, and are under consideration in this Office action.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph*

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. The rejection of Claims 79-97 and 110-115 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for introduction of new matter, is **withdrawn** in view of the deletion of the new matter.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The rejection of Claims 79, 80, 82-97, 110, 111-115 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious over Ireland (US 5,990,085), in view of Zlotnick (1997) is **maintained** for the same reasons of record.

6. The rejection of Claims 79-97 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious over Zlotnick and further in view of Pumpens et al. (1995), is **maintained** for the same reasons of record.

7. The rejection of Claims 79-82 and 110-112 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious over Thornton (US 5,143,726) in view of Zlotnick et al. (1997), is **maintained** for the same reasons of record.

8. Applicant presented the same argument that the Zlotnick teaching is not properly combinable with Ireland because an Ala for Cys substitution taught by Zlotnick is not "conservative", while all of the claims recite that the substitutions present are conservative (p. 13).

9. In response to applicant's argument, the instant claims encompass HBc chimer comprising HBc $\Delta$  with a Cys at its C-termini, and no more than about 5% conservatively substituted amino acid residues in the native HBc sequence. Thus, adding Cys at the C-termini of HBc $\Delta$ , as shown in HBc $\Delta$  Cp\*150 by Zlotnick, meets one of the structural limitations of the claims.

10. Applicant again argues that Zlotnick's Cp\*150, which is an HBc $\Delta$  containing a cystine at its C-termini, is not stable (Para 2, p. 14).

11. In response to Applicant's argument, all structure limitations of the instant claims contain such structural features taught or suggested by Pumpens and Zlotnick. Applicant has not

explicitly pointed out what are the specific structural features of the alleged HBc chimer that are different from those of the prior art, which contribute alleged enhanced stability of the claimed HBc chimer.

12. It is noted that Applicant has amended Claims 1, 18, 42, 51 and 63 as recited: "wherein said particle stability is assayed as a measurement of the percentage of full length chimer molecules determined by Coomassie Blue stain of reducing buffer 15%SDS-PAGE results obtained after dilution of purified particles to a concentration of 1 mg/mL in aqueous 50 mM NAP04, pH 6.8, with sodium azide added to a final concentration of 0.02% and incubation at 37° C for about 14 days."

13. However, the amendment does not constitute a structural or functional limitation to the alleged HBc chimer because the amendment is directed to a method of measuring an HBc particle, which does not change the structural or functional characteristics of the alleged chimer HBc.

14. Applicant again argues that Ulrich, or Dr. Chiao Shih, as one of ordinary skill in the art, who stated that the stability problem of HBc was not solved, did not suggest that the desired stability could be achieved by combining teachings of Ireland, Pumpens, Thronton and Zlotnick, but rather maintained that the problem had yet to be solved.

15. Applicant's argument is not relevant. Just because Dr. Ulrich or Dr. Chiao Shih did not combine teachings of the cited reference in their work does not mean that the teachings of Ireland, Pumpens, Thronton and Zlotnick are not suggestive to those of ordinary skill in the art. Specifically, all basic structural feature limitations of the instant claims are taught or suggested

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by Ireland, Pumpens, Thronton and Zlotnick. The knowledge how to manipulate HBc molecule, such as deletion of the C-terminal domain of HBc, addition or maintaining of a Cys at C-termini of HBcΔ, and addition of heterologous epitopes at the N-, C- terminus and/or immunogenic loop, etc., was in possession of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the alleged invention as made. Applicant has not explicitly taught any specific structures of the alleged HBc chimera that are different from those taught in the prior art, and any evidence to show how such specific structures of the alleged HBc chimera result in the alleged stability of the claimed HBc chimera.

16. Thus, Applicant has not provided any compelling reasoning or evidence to overcome any of the three obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

***Remarks***


17. No claim is allowed. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bo Peng, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-5542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell, Ph. D. can be reached on 571-272-0974. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

  
Bo Peng, Ph.D.  
November 7, 2007

/Bruce Campell/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Units 1645 (acting) and 1648